

**COMPRESSION ARTHRODESIS**, including **CENTRAL DISLOCATION AS A PRINCIPLE IN HIP SURGERY**. By John Charnley, F.R.C.S., with a chapter on Mechanics by Professor J. A. L. Matheson and Histological Observations by Professor S. L. Baker. (Pp. 264 + xi; figures 208. 42s.). Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1953.

THIS book is, in some ways, reminiscent of some of the volumes of war stories published recently.

That John Charnley is one of the most original and ingenious thinkers in any branch of surgery to-day is well recognised, but his ability as a fighter for his own ideals is the outstanding characteristic of this book. He has enlisted as his Herminius, in mechanics, Professor Matheson, and Professor Baker is his histological Spurius Lartius. Right well do these three defend their cause, but Charnley, unlike Horatius, is not content with defence only, and he launches into attack at every possible opportunity. This is typically shown in Chapter VI, which he entitles: "The Watson-Jones Denunciation of Compression in Osseous Union," where he endeavours to repudiate Watson-Jones statements with both rapier and bludgeon.

The principle of compression arthrodesis, as applied to the knee, has been accepted by most orthopaedic surgeons, and it is, indeed, one of the most perfect operations with a success rate of practically 100 per cent. However, its use in other joints is not so clearly proven. The conservative mind can only be perturbed by the destruction of important structures in some of the approaches.

This is undoubtedly a stimulating volume, lavishly and aptly illustrated by excellent line drawings, radiographs and microphotographs, with the publication being of that high standard which has now become accepted as that of Livingstone.

**TO DEFINE TRUE MADNESS**. By Henry Yellowlees, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 215. 12s. 6d.). London: Sedgwick & Jackson.

[The publishers kindly sent copies of this book to two readers who have each been good enough to contribute the reviews below.—EDITOR.]

I CAN heartily recommend this book to all interested in the human mind, disordered or otherwise. Dr. Yellowlees writes with a great background of good literature ranging from the Scriptures through the classics, Shakespeare to "Alice in Wonderland." His style is very lucid, simple, and annotated with quotations, wisecracks, etc., making it a book eminently easy to read. He uses as few scientific or pseudo-scientific terms as is compatible with clarity and confines himself mainly to the homely speech readily understood by all. He has a broad, sympathetic approach to life in general and perhaps most particularly to life's mental misfits. Although the book is referred to as "Commonsense Psychiatry for Lay People," there must be few if any doctors who will not profit by it. It is reasonably priced and is not beyond the capacity or the purse of the average medical student. In addition to being full of interest and highly entertaining as well as highly informative it will well repay a perusal even by the balder and greyer sections of our medicals.

Obviously his understanding of the fundamentals of the Roman Catholic Faith is not so objective as his understanding of his speciality.

E. M. HICKEY.

**PSYCHIATRISTS**, and they are many, whose interest in the subject was first aroused by Dr. Yellowlees' lectures on psychopathology will recognise in this book his power to make instruction easy and at the same time to make the subject-matter at once exciting and fascinating.

Perhaps the greatest service the book performs is to show, by means of homely and everyday examples within the experience of everyone, how the same mental mechanisms operate in the ordinary person as in those suffering from mental disorders, and how, therefore, the neurotic or the psychotic is suffering from something which should arouse neither reprobation nor superstitious fear, but is merely displaying an exaggeration of modes of thought common in ordinary people.

The book is, of course, written for the layman, but it might with advantage be put into the hands of every medical student and indeed of every doctor.

D. B. M. LOTHIAN.